

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAM-01 SSM-05 /086 W

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R 161314Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6442

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4865

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, KU, SA, EG

SUBJECT: KUWAIT ATTENDS SURPRISE MINI-SUMMIT; FONMIN SICK
IN NEW YORK

1. KUWAITI AMIR DEPARTING OCT. 16 TO RIYADH SURPRISE MINI-SUMMIT. NEWS OF MEETING CAME OUT LATE OCT. 15 WHEN CABINET MINISTER HUSAIN AND ACTING FONMIN SALEM SABAH DISCUSSED IT WITH PRESS, REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED OPTIMISM, AND NOTED THAT MINI-SUMMIT IS PRODUCT OF KUWAITI-SAUDI INITIATIVE. KUWAIT PRESS COMMENT OF OCT. 16 REPEATS THESE SENTIMENTS AND SEVERAL EDITORIALISTS EXPRESS FERVENT HOPE THAT MINI-SUMMIT WILL ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING. AL QABAS EDITORIAL ASSERTS THAT THE OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT AT RIYADH ARE NOT REAL OBSTACLES BUT RATHER PSYCHOLOGICAL ONES AND, THEREFORE, THEY CAN BE MADE
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TO DISAPPEAR. AL ANBA NOTES THAT THE RIYADH MINI-

SUMMIT IS RESULT OF SAUDI-KUWAITI EFFORTS, AND THAT BOTH THESE GOVERNMENTS ENJOY "GREAT WEIGHT" IN THE ARAB WORLD, BUT WARNS THAT A FAILURE OF AGREEMENT AT RIYADH WOULD PLUNGE THE ARAB WORLD INTO DEEPER CHAOS AND CAUSE A "FEAST" TO BE HELD IN ISRAEL.

2. MEANWHILE, PRESS OF OCT. 16 REPORTS COMMENTS OF GOK OFFICIALS TO EFFECT THAT KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER, SHAIKH SABAH AL AHMAD AL JABER, IS SICK IN NEW YORK. HIS AILMENT IS VARIOUSLY DESCRIBED AS A "SLIGHT INDISPOSITION" (AL QABAS) FOR WHICH HE IS "BEDRIDDEN" AND "MIGHT UNDERGO A SLIGHT OPERATION" (AL RAI AL AM). IN FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONTINUED ABSENCE, UNDER SECRETARY AL RASHID IS HEADING THE KUWAITI DELEGATION TO THE CURRENT CAIRO MEETING OF ARAB LEAGUE FONMINS WHICH IS PREPARING FOR FULL ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT.
MAESTRONE

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